

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Title of the application appearing on page 1, line 3 as follows:

ANIMAL ~~BREEDING~~ BEDDING MATERIAL OR ARTICLE

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 13 as follows:

The present invention relates to an animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article having excellent antibacterial properties, deodorization characteristics and safety. More particularly, the present invention relates to an animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article composed of a basic amino acid cellulose partial ester (i.e., partial ester of cellulose with a basic amino acid) or a salt thereof as the effective constituting component.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 18 as follows:

It is an object of the present invention to provide an animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article that is free from any of the aforementioned problems associated with the materials currently employed in the art and is excellent in antibacterial properties, deodorization characteristics and safety.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 22 as follows:

The present inventors have found that the above object can be achieved by constituting or composing all or part of an animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article with a basic amino acid cellulose partial ester, or a salt thereof, which has the antibacterial activity.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 1 as follows:

Accordingly, the present invention provides an animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article having excellent antibacterial properties, deodorization characteristics and safety. In

particular the animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article is composed of a basic amino acid cellulose partial ester or a salt thereof as the effective constituting component.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 19 as follows:

In an embodiment of the present invention is an animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article with a basic amino acid cellulose partial ester, or a salt thereof, which has the antibacterial activity.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 22 as follows:

As used herein, the inventive animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article refers to a material or article that is used by placing or laying in a cage or the like or applying onto an animal body during the breeding of an animal for the purpose of facilitating the disposal of excrements (feces and urine), preventing offensive smells, or the like.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1 as follows:

In the present invention, the basic amino acid cellulose partial ester or a salt thereof has a chemical structure where the carboxyl group of a basic amino acid and the hydroxyl group(s) of cellulose are subjected to dehydration to form a covalent bond (ester bond), and hence the possibility of elution by the liquid secreted, exuded, or excreted from a living body is low. Moreover, even when the ester bond is cleaved, the component that is removed from the cellulose is an amino acid, which is harmless to a living body, so that the inventive animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article is extremely high in safety.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 6 as follows:

The present invention ~~is relates~~ relates to an animal ~~breeding bedding~~ material or article which is composed of such a basic amino acid cellulose partial ester or a salt thereof as the constituting component effective for the purpose of antibacterial properties, deodorization characteristics and safety. Specifically, such an animal ~~breeding bedding~~ material or article may be any one insofar as the basic amino acid cellulose partial ester or a salt thereof in the form of fabric, non-woven fabric, fiber, powder or the like, is arranged or incorporated as at least part of the animal ~~breeding bedding~~ material or article, and a hitherto known structure may be adopted as the other part thereof. For example, in the case of the animal ~~breeding bedding~~ material or article, such as an antibacterial deodorant pad for an animal, for the purpose of absorbing the liquid secreted, exuded, or excreted from a living body, the inventive basic amino acid cellulose partial ester or a salt thereof, e.g., in the fibrous or powdery form, may replace all or part of the absorptive body or material in a hitherto known structure.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 10 as follows:

As demonstrated by the Examples above, the present invention provides an animal ~~breeding bedding~~ material or article which is excellent in antibacterial properties, deodorization characteristics and safety, and composed of a basic amino acid cellulose partial ester or a salt thereof as the effective constituting component.

Please delete the original Abstract appearing on page 18 and insert therefor the attached substitute Abstract as new page 18, beginning on a new page, after the last line of page 17.